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Important Changes Made in School Laws at Recent Session of Legislature.

State Superintendent of Education Martin has sent the following letter to the county superintendents:

Under separate cover I am mailing you printed copies of some important school legislation which applies to the whole state. These acts were passed at the recent session of the legislature, and have been approved by the governor. I wish to call your special attention to some of their provisions.

The high school act has been so simplified and modified that I believe that we shall be able to establish several high schools in every county. State aid, under this act, is confined to rural districts and to districts which do not contain a town or city with more than 2,500 population. A high school may be established in a single district or in an aggregation of districts. If the high school is located in a country district it will receive aid, provided there are as many as 15 pupils in the high school department. This provision will enable a great many schools to come in which could not qualify last year. You will notice also that the act has been very much improved in regard to the provisions for appointment of trustees. When a high school in any one county receives aid, tuition will be free to all pupils in that county who are qualified to enter the high school.

Section 7 of the library act has been amended. Under this amendment any unexpended funds in the library appropriation can be used, by the state board of education, to offer prizes to the rural schools which will make the most material improvement in building equipment and grounds. An appropriation for the same purpose has been made by the Peabody board to the School Improvement association, so that I feel safe in saying that at least 30 prizes of \$50 to \$100 each, will be offered. Please let every country school in your county know about these prizes. The competition will be open until December 1. Libraries may be established in any district and money is now available.

A very important act was passed requiring the teaching of physiology and hygiene in the schools. If the teachers make proper use of the text books on this subject, I think that the provisions of this act will be complied with.

An act was passed to exempt from taxation all bonds issued by school districts for the erection of school buildings, for equipment, for maintaining public schools or for paying indebtedness of such school district.

—The local Farmers' Union will meet at the court house Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Full attendance desired.

Sensational Shooting Scrape in Monroe.

Monroe special in Monday's Charlotte Observer: W. D. James, an employe of the Monroe Cotton Mill, was shot in the left cheek by W. O. Busbee, a fellow employe, in a quarrel which took place last night in James' house in the mill town. Busbee is a young man who is said to have been brought up by Mr. James, and the relations between them were of the pleasantest till a short time ago, when James began to suspect that Busbee was too intimate with Mrs. James. When James entered his house last night he found Busbee there, and a quarrel at once arose between them on the old subject. Upbraided by James for acting as he had, Busbee, who had been drinking, drew a pistol and shot his former friend.

Train Plunges into River.

Bristol, Okla., March 15.—Two persons were killed, one was probably fatally hurt, seven were severely injured and scores of lives were imperiled today when a St. Louis & San Francisco passenger train north bound was wrecked on a high trestle over Spring creek, eight miles west of Bristol.

The locomotive, the baggage and the mail cars and the first coach plunged 40 feet into the river. An iron bolt nut on the track is believed to have caused the wreck.

Russia's Prisons Crowded.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—M. Chtcheglovitoff, the minister of justice, has asked the Duma for \$1,000,000 for the enlargement of the Russian prisons, which are overcrowded. The official figures show an increase in the number of prisoners of 111 per cent since 1906. In January, 1908, the total number was 159,537 and in February 165,588, of which 13,000 were political prisoners.

Young Girl a Suicide.

Trenton, N. J., March 15.—Margaret Burton, aged 15 years, shot and killed herself at her home. The girl had become despondent over the care of her mother, who had been seriously ill for some time.

\$100,000 Fire in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Mo., March 14.—The union station was threatened with destruction to-night by a fire, resulting from an explosion of a gas tank under a passenger car. Eight passenger coaches was ruined and a section of the shed was destroyed. The damage is \$100,000.

—Mr. Frank Gardner, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gardner who live near Concord church, died Sunday night of pneumonia, at the age of 26 years. The remains were interred in the cemetery at Concord church, Monday afternoon after services by Rev. W. A. Beckham.—Rock Hill Herald.

Lyon Sustained by Supreme Court--Important Decision in Dispensary Situation--Court Holds Pritchard's Action a Nullity.

Columbia special in Charleston Sunday News: The South Carolina Supreme Court declares that neither the Federal Court nor any other Court has jurisdiction to control the commission to wind up the State dispensary, and that the adjudication of claims against the dispensary is solely within the power of the commission, which is the agent of the State as much as the State Treasurer is. The Court intimates that Judge Pritchard should now step aside and permit the interpretation of the State Supreme Court to rule, but that if he will not do so the case can be taken to the United States Supreme Court, where, following the usual rule, the State Court will be followed in the interpretation of a State law rather than the Federal Circuit Court.

The opinion of the State Supreme Court in the mandamus case was filed this afternoon. It is written by Associate Justice Woods and is concurred in by the entire Court, all the Justices having gathered here to-day to confer on this important matter. The day was spent in the consultation room by the Court and the opinion was filed this afternoon, just as most of the members were ready to go home. It is regarded as a very strong document and it is a complete vindication of the position taken by the Attorney General of the State in the cases brought before Judge Pritchard by the whiskey houses having claims against the dispensary.

The case came up in this way: Attorney General Lyon presented to the Court a petition for mandamus, alleging that the commission declined to pay into the State treasury, for use in prosecuting the alleged dispensary grafters, the sum set aside by the Legislature for that purpose. The commission asserted that under the order of Judge Pritchard they were restrained from paying out any funds at all. Mr. Lyon held that the order of Judge Pritchard to this effect was of no force and effect, as the Federal Judge has no jurisdiction in the matter, and this position the Supreme Court upholds. For the petitioner Attorney General Lyon and Mr. B. L. Abney argued the case, and the commission was represented by its regular counsel, Mr. W. F. Stevenson.

More Lawlessness in Ky.

Versailles, Ky., March 14.—Three barns in Woodford county and one just across the line in Scott were burned early today by masked men. The men were on horseback and in buggies, the party numbering not more than 50. A number of shots were fired but as far as known nobody was hurt.

Tillman Uses His Pitchfork--Makes One of the Most Drastic Speeches ever Heard in Senate

Washington, March 16.—With a caution unusual for him, Senator Tillman today read a part of his speech in the Senate in which he denounced Executive encroachment on legislative power. With this apparent caution he proceeded to deliver one of the most direct and denunciatory addresses ever heard in that body. His speech was based on his resolution instructing the committee on finance to inquire whether national banks of New York are in the habit of furnishing permanent capital for speculative enterprises, etc. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Tillman traced what he termed a "swinging of the pendulum" from the regime of Andrew Johnson, when Congress assumed control almost to the exclusion of the President from legislative influence to the administrations that followed, which he declared witnessed a growth of presidential power. The dominating influence and control of the executive branch, he said, over the legislative and a less degree over the judicial branches of the government were the most marked features of American politics at this time.

"It has taken," said Mr. Tillman, "just forty-one years for the pendulum to swing from one extreme to the other."

"Now," he said, "the House of Representatives has degenerated into little more than a recording machine to do the will of the Speaker and his lieutenants." Freedom of debate in the old and true sense has disappeared from that end of the Capitol, he added. In the Senate "severity and cowardice are the order of the day," he declared and "the shadow of the Executive hands over all, and the President's wishes are almost the only law."

County Farmers' Union.

The Lancaster county Farmers' Union will meet in the court house on the first Friday in April (the 3d day) at 10 o'clock a. m. All sub unions are requested to meet at once and elect delegates to the county union who will be sure to attend. Every sub-trade agent is also requested to be present, and not only every trade agent, but every Union man in the county will please be present. Every man should come and help work for the protection and furtherance of his own interests.

E. B. Lingle, Pres.

—Married, by Mag. W. P. Caskey, Sunday last, Mr. Wm. Henlow and Miss Katie McGuirt.

—Mrs. M. J. Morrison, of this city, who recently moved to Smith's Turnout, died at that place this morning at 6 o'clock, and will be buried there tomorrow at 11 o'clock.—Rock Hill Record.

Court in Monroe this Week--Alleged Slayers of Young Furr Among Those to be Tried for Murder.

It appears that there are 6 parties charged with murder to be tried in Monroe this week, though strictly speaking there are but 5 cases, as published in Saturday's News, two of the accused being jointly indicted. A brief history of each case is given as follows in a Monroe special in Sunday's Charlotte Observer. It will be observed that among the cases is that of the two negroes charged with killing young Furr, brother-in-law of Mr. Harvey Flynn, a former Lancastrian now living in the vicinity of Monroe:

Robert Medlin, the only white defendant, will be tried for the murder of Alexander Medlin, who was killed on Nov. 22nd last while he and the defendant, according to the evidence brought out at the preliminary hearing, were skylarking with a shotgun. The defense will be accident. The same defense will be offered in the case of Will McFarlan, a little negro who shot his companion, Roy Alsobrooks, while they were hunting near Stouts on the 19th of November. Susie Watts and Charles Stratford, both colored, are charged with the murder of Thomas Furr, a young white man. The body of young Furr was found in a field near the Watts woman's cabin, very early one morning last Jan., and evidence was found in the woman's cabin indicating that the murder was committed there and the body was afterwards carried out and placed where it was discovered. Stratford denies having been at the cabin that night, but evidence will be produced that he was there and that he had threatened Furr shortly before the tragedy. Hamp Jones will be tried for the murder of Clifford Barber on the night of Feb. 15th. It is said that this killing was the result of a quarrel between the two negroes about a woman. John Hough is charged with the murder of Brodie Davis at a dance near Waxhaw, Feb. 1st, 1906. Hough escaped right after the affair and was not captured until this week, when he was arrested at Winston-Salem.

Georgians Convicted of Murder.

Lawrenceville, Ga., March 16.—Henry Campbell and John Hudson have been convicted of the murder and burning of Hudson's wife and baby some months ago.

Hudson obtained a recommendation to life imprisonment from the jury and will not be hanged. Campbell received no mercy and is sentenced to be hanged May 8th.

Blow to Prohibition.

Washington, March 16.—By a vote of 3 to 2 the sub-committee of the Senate committee on the judiciary today declared unconstitutional all of the bills intended to remove Federal barriers against States exercising control of their police powers for the regulation of the liquor traffic.